EXTRA! THE SECRETS OF CHRIS & VICKI'S POWER-DIALS!
60¢
U.K. 20p
ALL NEW!
NO. 486
OCT.
Adventure Comics
presents
DIAL "H" FOR HERO™
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
THE COMIC YOU CREATE!
THIS MORNING, IT WAS YOUR TYPICAL SMALL TOWN, BUT NOW IT'S BECOME...
HELL ON EARTH!
AND COMICDOM'S NEWEST HEROES ARE HAVING A DEVIL OF A TIME TRYING TO SAVE IT!
FBScan

CHRISTOPHER KING! VICTORIA GRANT! WHEN THESE TWO ORDINARY TEENAGERS FOUND THE MYSTIC DIALS, THEY HAD NO IDEA THAT WHEN THEY DIALED THE LETTERS H-E-R-O, THEY WOULD BE TURNED INTO THE GREATEST SUPER-HEROES OF ALL TIME! NOW, YOU CAN JOIN THEM AND HELP OUR TITANIC TWOSOME...
DIAL "H" FOR HERO
BOW, EARTHLINGS... SUBMIT TO ME!
FOR, FROM THIS MOMENT ON -- THE EARTH IS MINE!
HE COMES FROM THE DEEPEST PITS OF HADES TO TERRORIZE OUR PLANET AND ENSLAVE OUR PEOPLE. AND AGAINST HIS INDESCRIBABLE POWER, EVEN CHRISTOPHER KING AND VICKI GRANT'S POWER-DIALS PROVE USELESS. IS THERE ANYTHING ANYONE CAN DO TO PREVENT...
HELL ON EARTH

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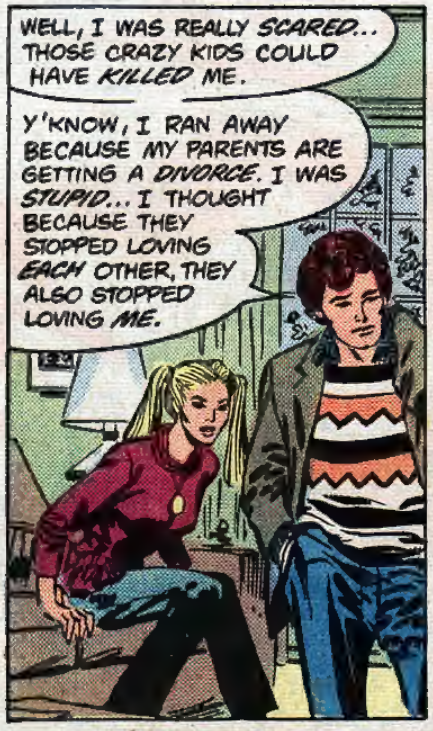
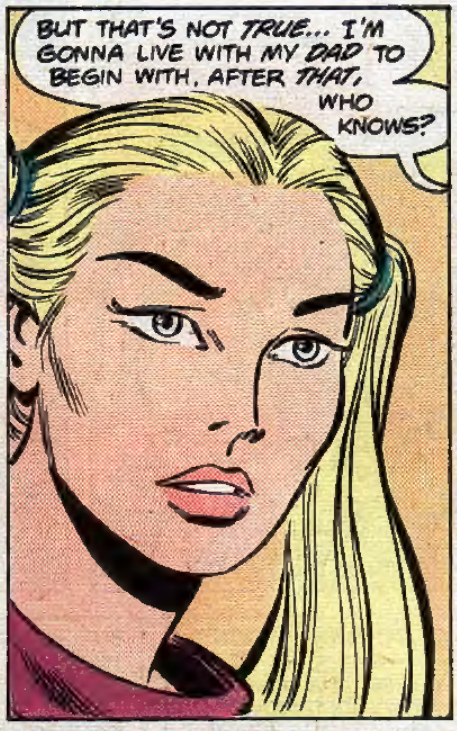
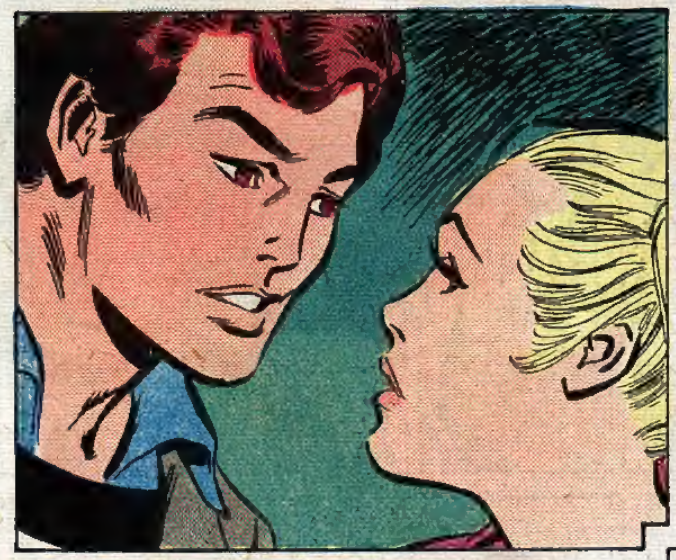
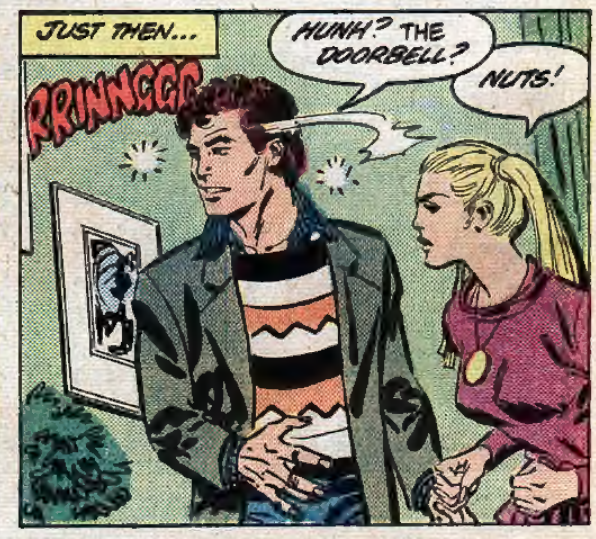
OUR STORY BEGINS IN THE SMALL NEW ENGLAND TOWN OF FAIRFAX, AND IN THE LABORATORY OF PROFESSOR THADDEUS OXFORD...
IT'S SO HARD TO BELIEVE... I'M SO VERY CLOSE TO SUCCESS--THE CREATION OF A FIRE-RESISTANT GENE!
THE IMPACT OF MY WORK WILL BE STAGGERING!
GENE RESEARCH, CLONING... DNA MANIPULATION--ALL WE KNOW IS RIGHT HERE BEFORE ME...
AND ALL I NEED IS A TREMENDOUS HEAT SOURCE TO ACTIVATE THIS CHEMICAL!
THEN LET ME SUPPLY THAT HEAT SOURCE, HUMAN!
WH-WHAT? WHO ARE YOU? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WHO AM I, HUMAN? WHY, YOUR FIRST ANCESTOR FELL FROM GRACE WHEN MY FATHER STRETCHED FORTH HIS EVIL HAND!
AS FOR WHY I HAVE COME--AND WHAT I INTEND TO DO--OBSERVE ME, MORTAL--OBSERVE!
2
THESE FLAMES, BORN IN DEEPEST PITS OF HADES, ARE MINE TO TOTALLY CONTROL.
I CAN SHAPE THESE CHEMICALS, AND GIVE THEM THE LIFE WHICH YOU, HUMAN, WOULD HAVE TAKEN YEARS' MORE RESEARCH TO ACHIEVE.
GAZE AT OUR CREATION, HUMAN... STARE IN AWE AT FIREGIRL--
--THE FIRST OF MY INVULNERABLE WARRIORS!
FIREGIRL WAS CREATED BY PAULA HUNTER AGE, 18. PEARL, MS.

HUMAN, WE WILL RETURN VERY SOON... RETURN TO CREATE MY NEW EMPIRE HERE ON THE SURFACE OF THE PLANET I HAVE WAITED SO LONG TO RULE.
FAREWELL, MORTAL-- FAREWELL!
HA! HA! HA!
LORD, WHAT HAVE I DONE?
WHAT HAVE I DONE?
SHORTLY, AFTER THE POLICE ARRIVE...
...YOU'RE SURE OF THIS, PROFESSOR...? HE CALLED HIMSELF THE DEVIL'S SON? THAT'S RATHER HARD TO BELIEVE.
DON'T YOU THINK I KNOW THAT, DETECTIVE KING? I'M A SCIENTIST, NOT USUALLY GIVEN TO SUCH BIZARRE BELIEFS...
BUT, I KNOW WHAT HE SAID, AND WHAT FRIGHTENS ME, SIR-- IS I BELIEVE HIM.
MAN, FIRST DAY BACK ON THE FORCE AND I'M GOING UP AGAINST SOME DEMON FROM HELL. WHEWW!
WELL, AT LEAST POLICE WORK NEVER GETS DULL!
THE HOME OF VICKI GRANT...
...SINCE I NEVER COMMITTED ANY CRIME, AND I HELPED THE POLICE CAPTURE THE VIPERS-- THEY LET ME GO... WITH JUST A WARNING.
I'M REALLY GLAD ABOUT THAT, BRAD... I WOULDN'T WANT TO SEE YOU HURT.
YOU MEAN THAT, VICKI? I DIDN'T THINK YOU CARED ABOUT ME ANY MORE.
YOU'VE CHANGED A LOT, BRAD... YOU'VE BECOME A NICER PERSON...
3


WELL, I WAS REALLY SCARED... THOSE CRAZY KIDS COULD HAVE KILLED ME.
Y'KNOW, I RAN AWAY BECAUSE MY PARENTS ARE GETTING A DIVORCE. I WAS STUPID... I THOUGHT BECAUSE THEY STOPPED LOVING EACH OTHER, THEY ALSO STOPPED LOVING ME.







AND WHY ARE YOU BOTHERING VICKI? I THOUGHT SHE TOLD YOU THAT YOU TWO WERE THROUGH!
LISSEN, KING, I DON'T WANNA FIGHT, SO LEAVE ME ALONE, HUH?
CHRIS, I ASKED BRAD TO COME OVER... WHICH IS MORE THAN I CAN SAY FOR YOU!
4

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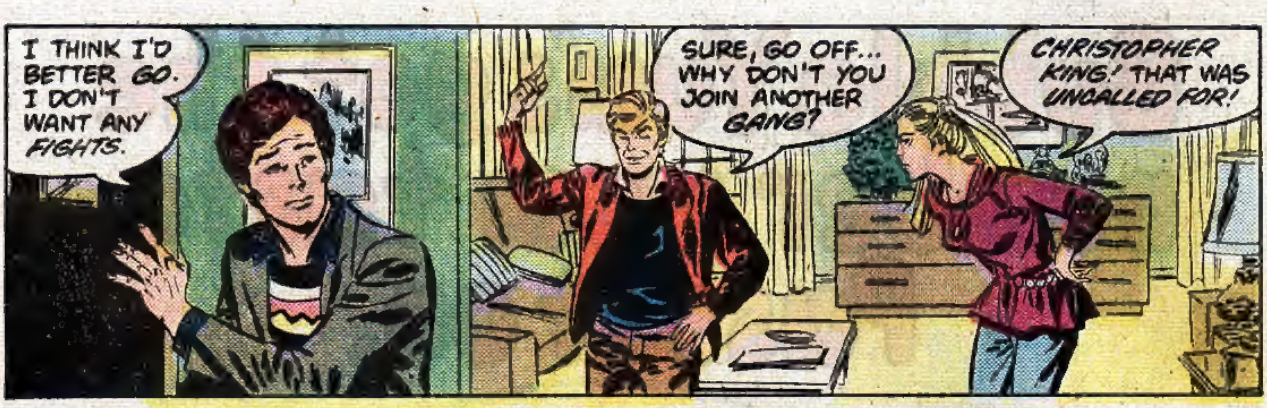
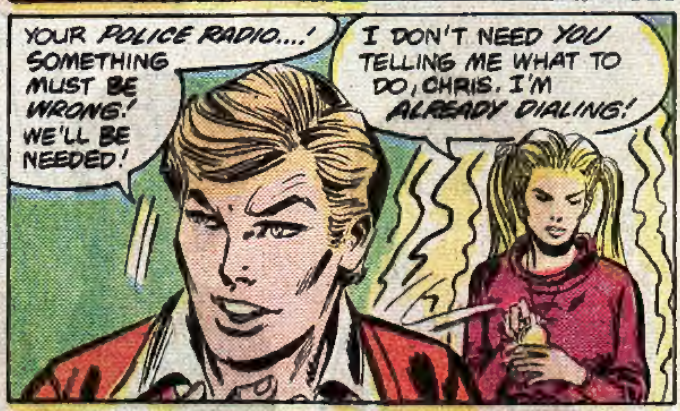
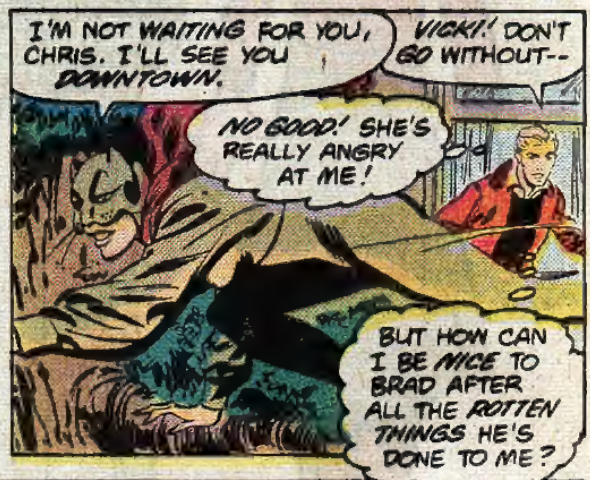

I THINK I'D BETTER GO. I DON'T WANT ANY FIGHTS.
SURE, GO OFF... WHY DON'T YOU JOIN ANOTHER GANG?
CHRISTOPHER KING! THAT WAS UNCALLED FOR!

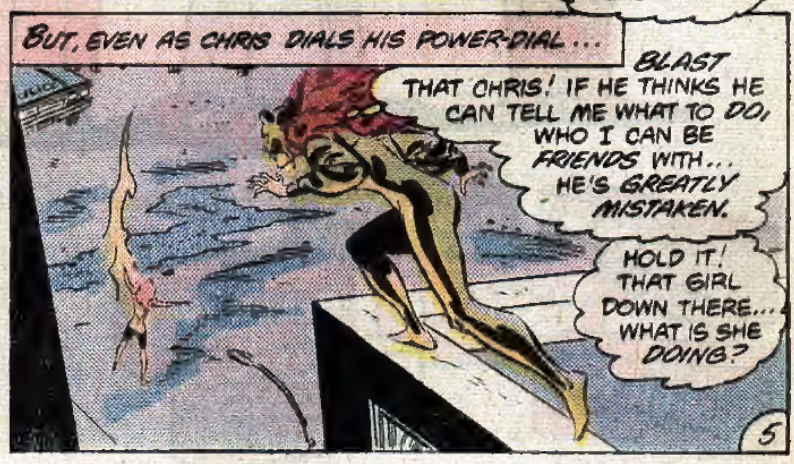
LOOK, EVER SINCE I GOT TO FAIRFAX HE'S BEEN PUTTING ME DOWN. I DESERVE TO GET BACK AT HIM.
YOU DESERVE TO GET OUT OF HERE NOW!

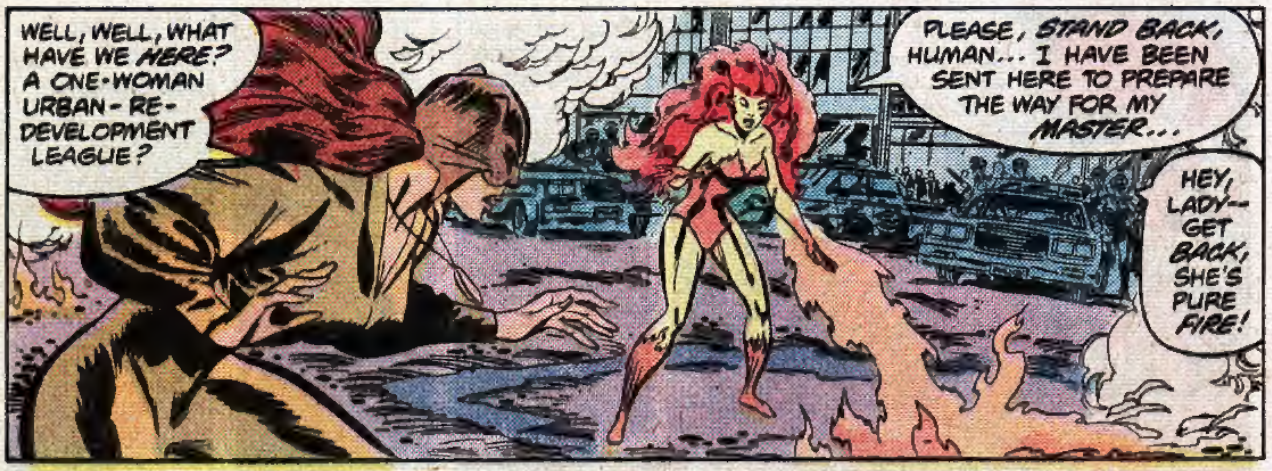
... ALL CARS, EMERGENCY AT SIXTH AND OAK. PROCEED WITH ALL SPEED!

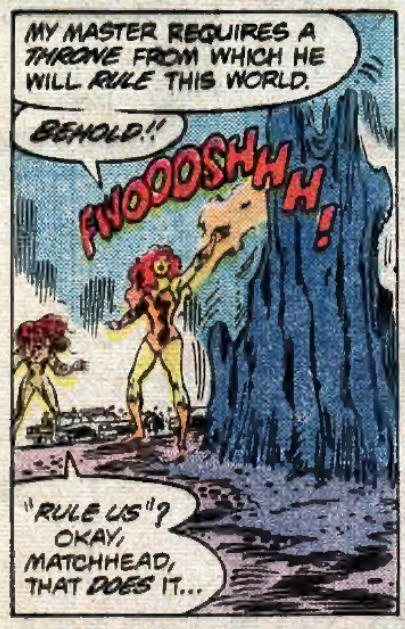

YOUR POLICE RADIO...! SOMETHING MUST BE WRONG! WE'LL BE NEEDED!
I DON'T NEED YOU TELLING ME WHAT TO DO, CHRIS. I'M ALREADY DIALING!

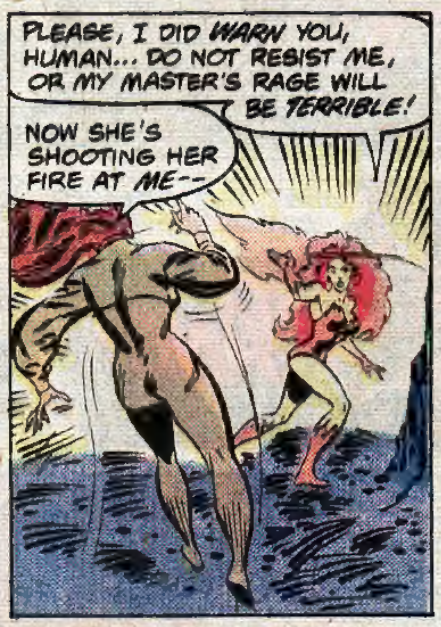
VICKI'S FINGERS DART OVER THE MYSTICAL POWER-DIAL, SPELLING OUT THE LETTERS, N-E-R-O, AND...
THE DIAL'S CHANGED ME AGAIN... FOR THE NEXT HOUR I'M--
PUMA the SHE-CAT!
PUMA WAS CREATED BY GLENN LEMONDS, AGE 18, SOCIAL CIRCLE, GA.


I'M NOT WAITING FOR YOU, CHRIS. I'LL SEE YOU DOWNTOWN.
VICKI!' DON'T GO WITHOUT--
NO GOOD! SHE'S REALLY ANGRY AT ME!
BUT HOW CAN I BE NICE TO BRAD AFTER ALL THE ROTTEN THINGS HE'S DONE TO ME?


BUT, EVEN AS CHRIS DIALS HIS POWER-DIAL...
BLAST THAT CHRIS! IF HE THINKS HE CAN TELL ME WHAT TO DO, WHO I CAN BE FRIENDS WITH... HE'S GREATLY MISTAKEN.
HOLD IT! THAT GIRL DOWN THERE... WHAT IS SHE DOING?
5

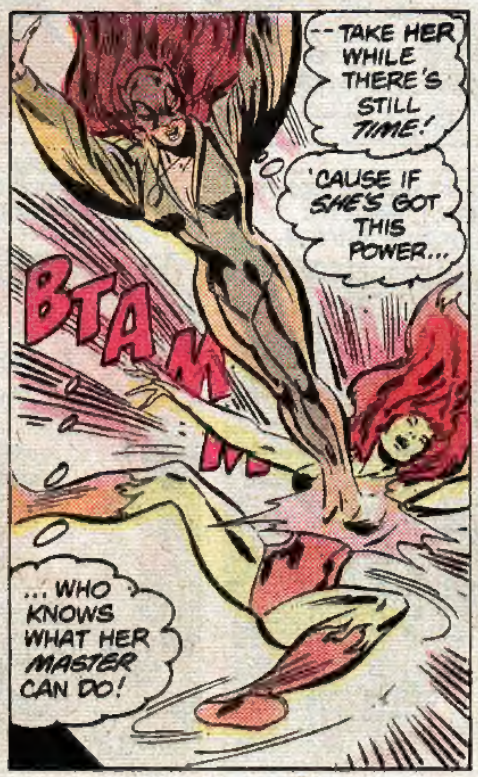

WELL, WELL, WHAT HAVE WE HERE? A ONE-WOMAN URBAN-RE-DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE?
PLEASE, STAND BACK, HUMAN... I HAVE BEEN SENT HERE TO PREPARE THE WAY FOR MY MASTER...
HEY, LADY--GET BACK, SHE'S PURE FIRE!


MY MASTER REQUIRES A THRONE FROM WHICH HE WILL RULE THIS WORLD.
BEHOLD!!
FWOOOSHHH!
"RULE US"? OKAY, MATCHHEAD, THAT DOES IT...

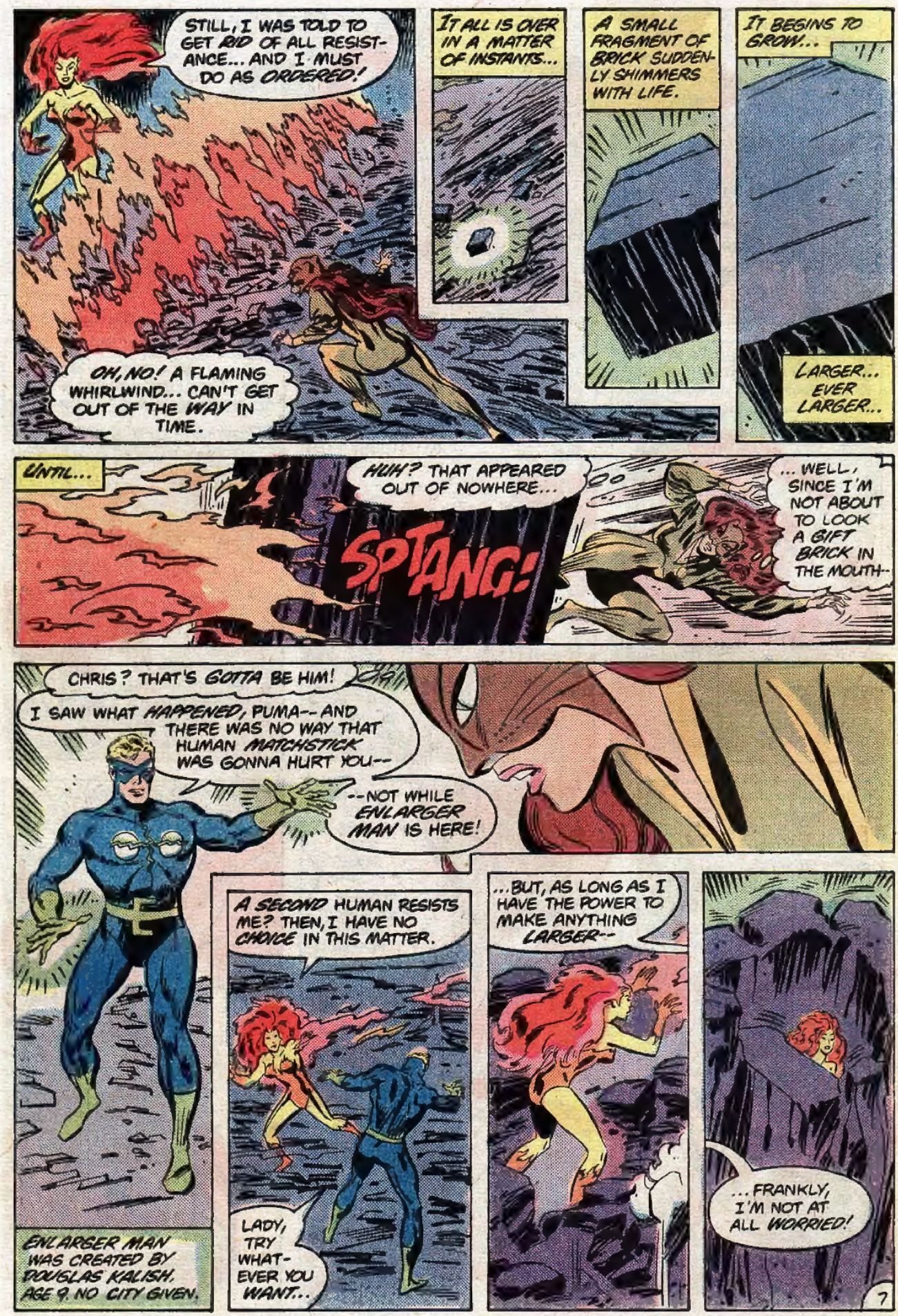

PLEASE, I DID WARN YOU, HUMAN... DO NOT RESIST ME, OR MY MASTER'S RAGE WILL BE TERRIBLE!
NOW SHE'S SHOOTING HER FIRE AT ME--

THANK GOODNESS I HAVE THE AGILITY OF A CAT... I HAVEN'T SPENT MY LIFE GROWING UP TO BECOME ROAST PUMA.

STILL, RUNNING AWAY ISN'T GONNA SOLVE THIS LITTLE PROBLEM--GOTTA CATCH HER OFF-GUARD!


--TAKE HER WHILE THERE'S STILL TIME!
'CAUSE IF SHE'S GOT THIS POWER...
BTAM
... WHO KNOWS WHAT HER MASTER CAN DO!

WHY DO YOU RESIST ME? I AM MERELY FOLLOWING MY MASTER'S ORDERS!
I ONLY DO AS HE TELLS ME!


STILL, I WAS TOLD TO GET RID OF ALL RESISTANCE... AND I MUST DO AS ORDERED!
OH, NO! A FLAMING WHIRLWIND... CAN'T GET OUT OF THE WAY IN TIME.
IT ALL IS OVER IN A MATTER OF INSTANTS...
A SMALL FRAGMENT OF BRICK SUDDENLY SHIMMERS WITH LIFE.
IT BEGINS TO GROW...
LARGER... EVER LARGER...
UNTIL...
HUH? THAT APPEARED OUT OF NOWHERE...
SPTANG!
... WELL, SINCE I'M NOT ABOUT TO LOOK A GIFT BRICK IN THE MOUTH--
CHRIS? THAT'S GOTTA BE HIM!
I SAW WHAT HAPPENED, PUMA-- AND THERE WAS NO WAY THAT HUMAN MATCHSTICK WAS GONNA HURT YOU--
--NOT WHILE ENLARGER MAN IS HERE!
ENLARGER MAN WAS CREATED BY DOUGLAS KALISH, AGE 9. NO CITY GIVEN.
A SECOND HUMAN RESISTS ME? THEN, I HAVE NO CHOICE IN THIS MATTER.
LADY, TRY WHATEVER YOU WANT...
...BUT, AS LONG AS I HAVE THE POWER TO MAKE ANYTHING LARGER--
... FRANKLY, I'M NOT AT ALL WORRIED!
7

YOU DID IT! YOU STOPPED HER!
A PIECE OF PIE! THEY SHOULD ALL BE THIS EASY!
BUT, SUDDENLY, THE JUNKPILE WALLS BEGIN TO GLOW...
"PIE"? SOMETHING TELLS ME ALL YOU'LL BE EATING IS YOUR WORDS!
GET BACK...
...SHE'S HEATING UP THE WALLS!
C'MON! THEY'RE GONNA BLOW ANY SECOND NOW!
BUT...
SPA-BLAMMM!
YOU TWO WERE COURAGEOUS, BUT I HAD MY MASTER'S ORDERS.
HE IS READY TO MAKE HIS ENTRANCE INTO YOUR WORLD.
YOU HAVE DONE WELL, FIREGIRL... BUT NOW IT IS MY TURN!
THIS EARTH, AND ALL ITS TEEMING INHABITANTS -- ARE MINE!!
CHAPTER ONE ENDS. CHAPTER TWO CONTINUES ON THE NEXT PAGE!
8

CHAPTER TWO: FEAR OVER FAIRFAX!

LIKE SOME GREAT BEHEMOTH HE RISES, TOWERING OVER THE SCENE LIKE THE FABLED COLOSSUS OF RHODES. HE IS A SIGHT THAT INSPIRES AWE... AND-- FEAR!
TREMBLE BEFORE ME, HUMANS... RUN IN FEAR AT THE VERY SIGHT OF ME!
THIS WORLD NOW BELONGS TO-- GROCKK, THE DEVIL'S SON!
GROCKK WAS CREATED BY ROCK BAKLETEA, NO CITY GIVEN.
TO ONE SUCH AS I, YOU HUMANS ARE MAGGOTS, INSECTS MEANT ONLY FOR CRUSHING!
POW
MY POWER IS INFINITE! NOTHING CAN SURVIVE MY EVER-RAGING FURY!
BUT YOU, HUMANS-- YOU SHALL SURVIVE, AT LEAST FOR NOW! GO SPREAD MY WORD! TELL THE OTHERS OF YOUR KIND--
GROCKK DEMANDS YOUR SURRENDER-- OR GROCKK DEMANDS YOUR DEATH!
HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!
9

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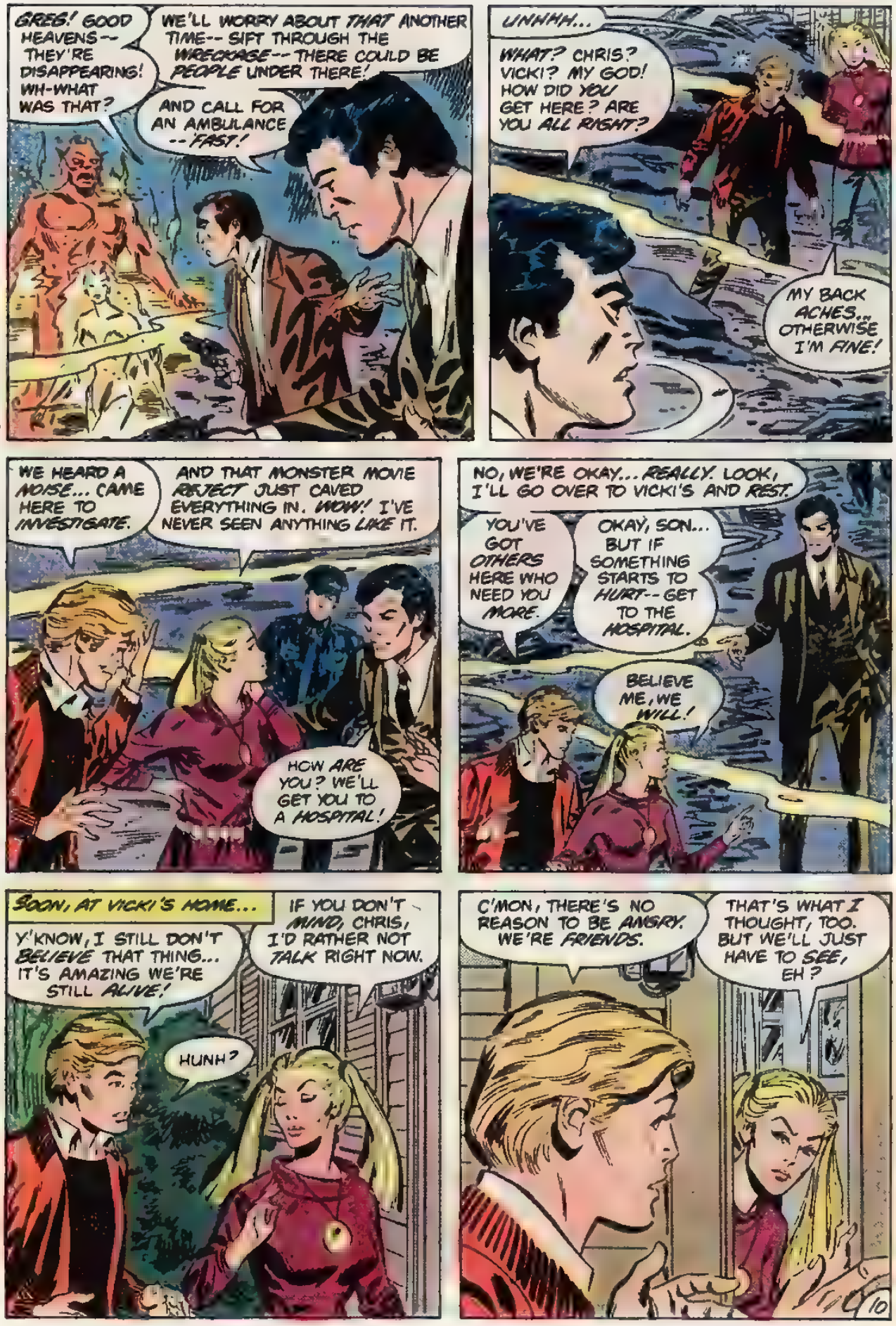
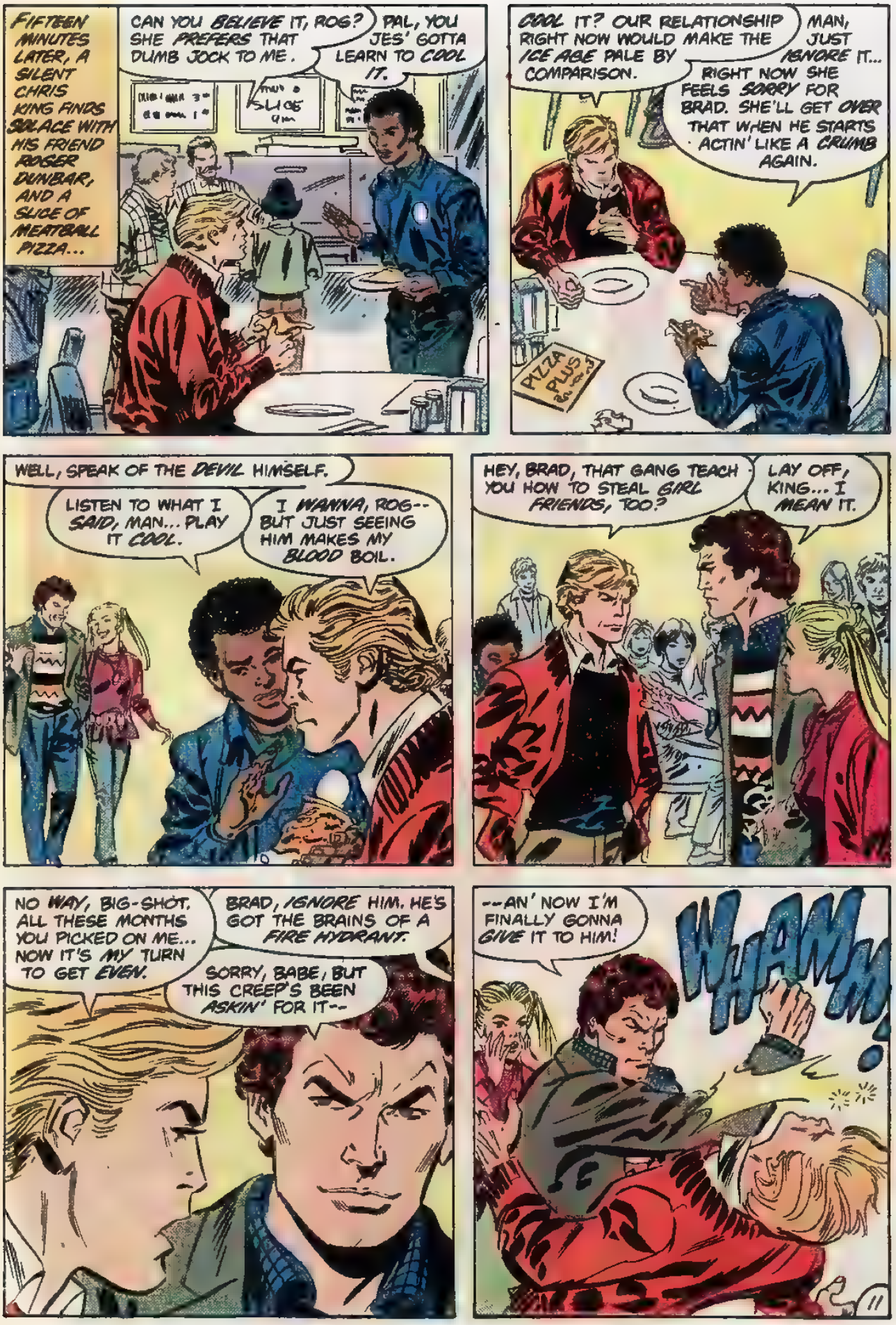
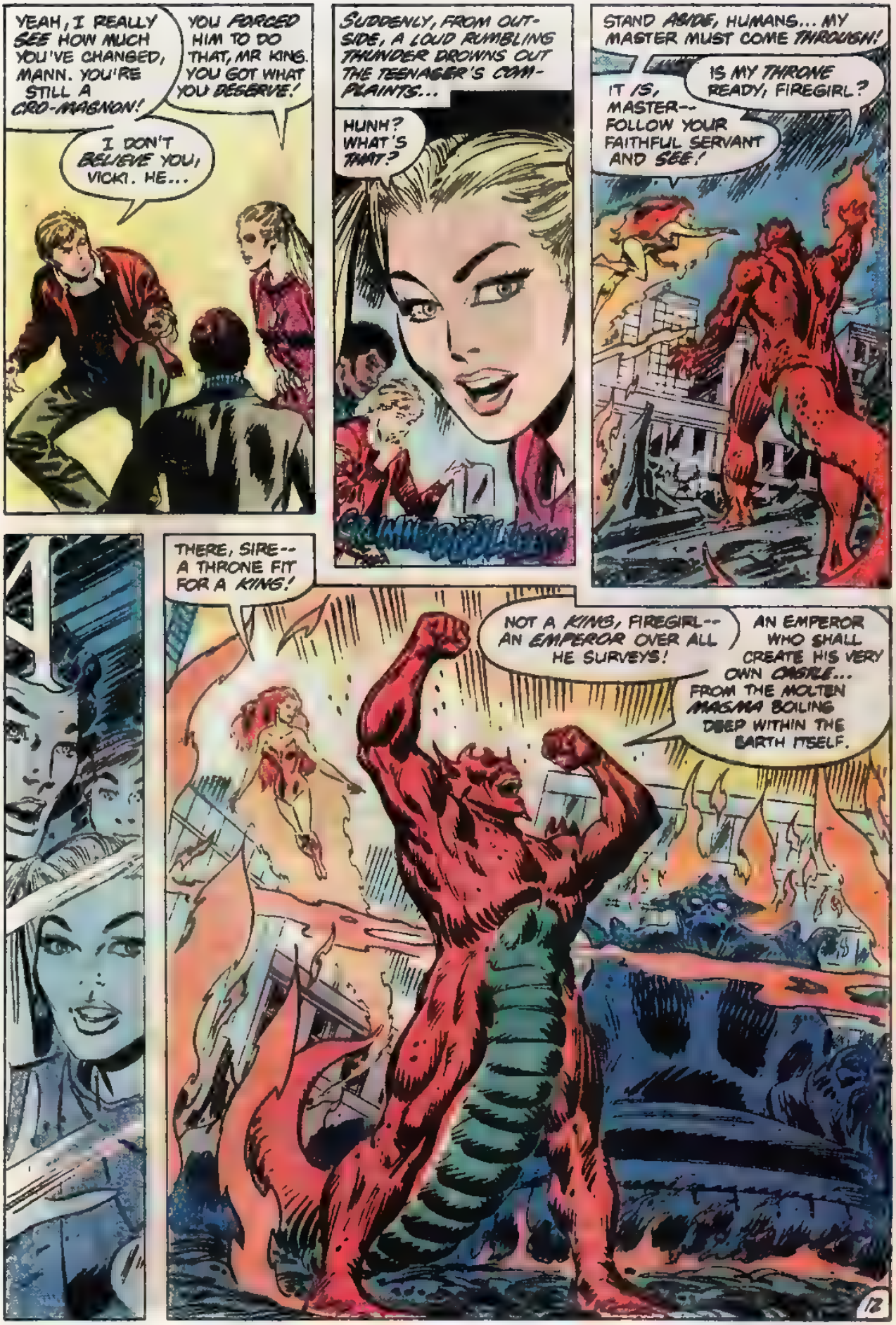
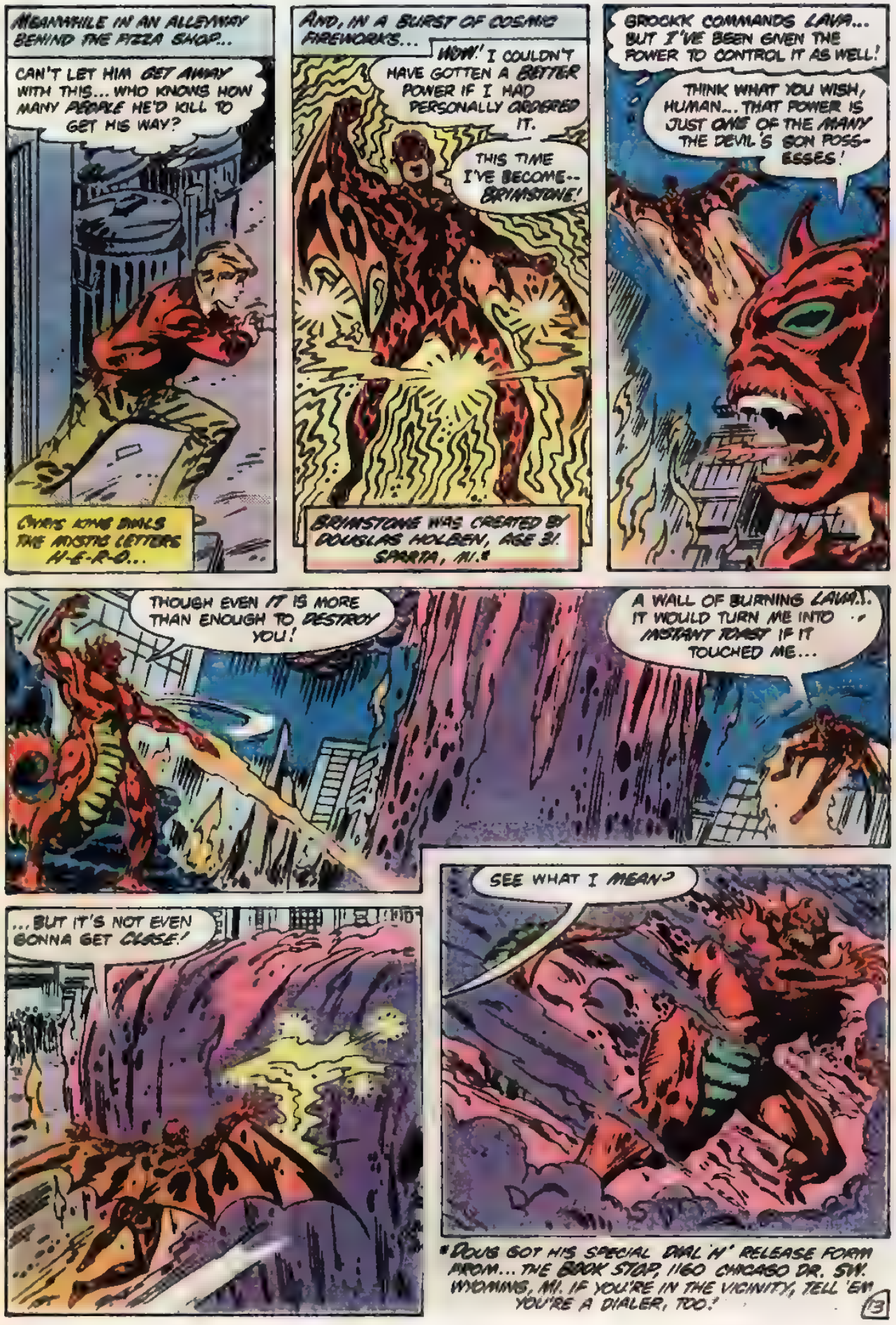
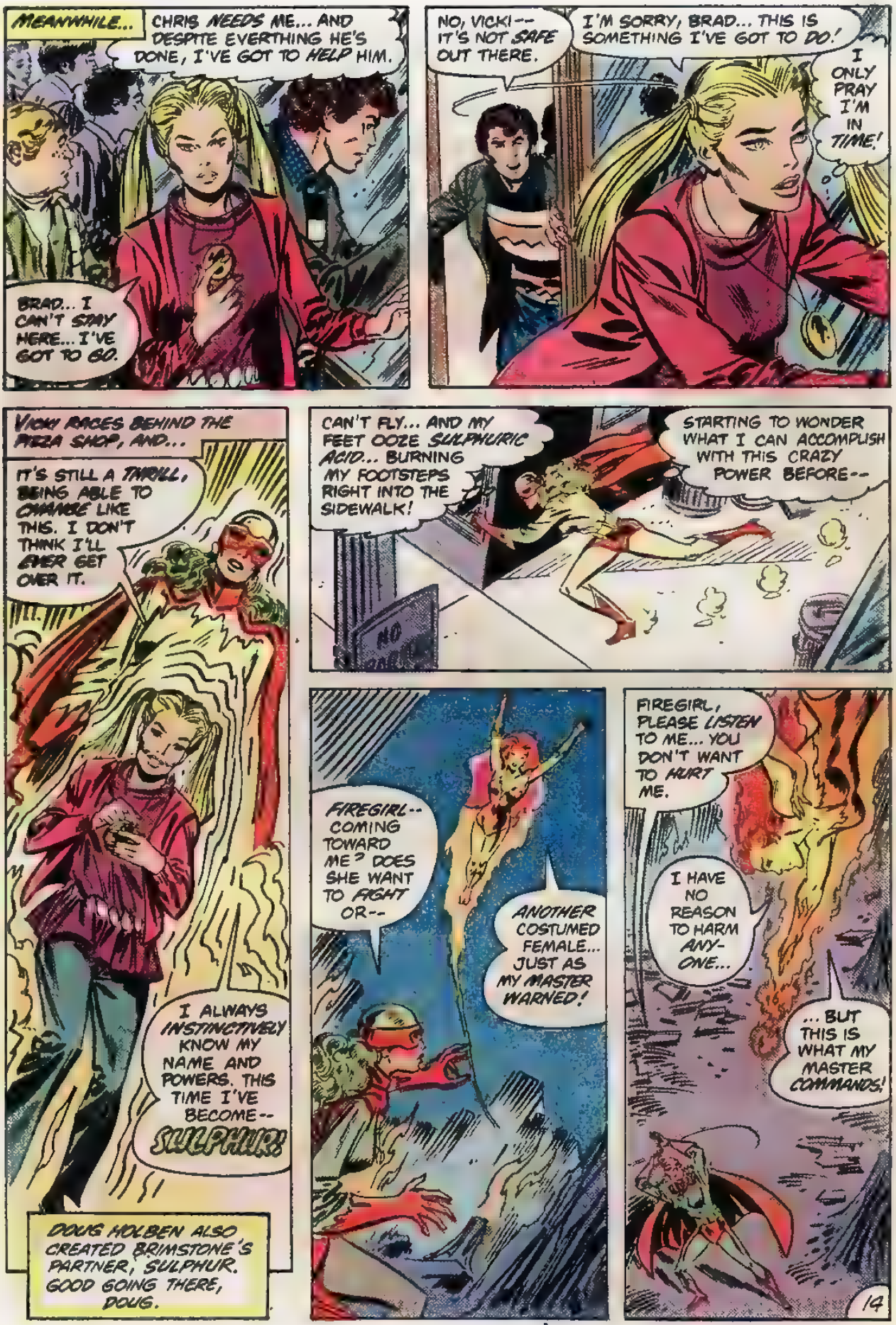
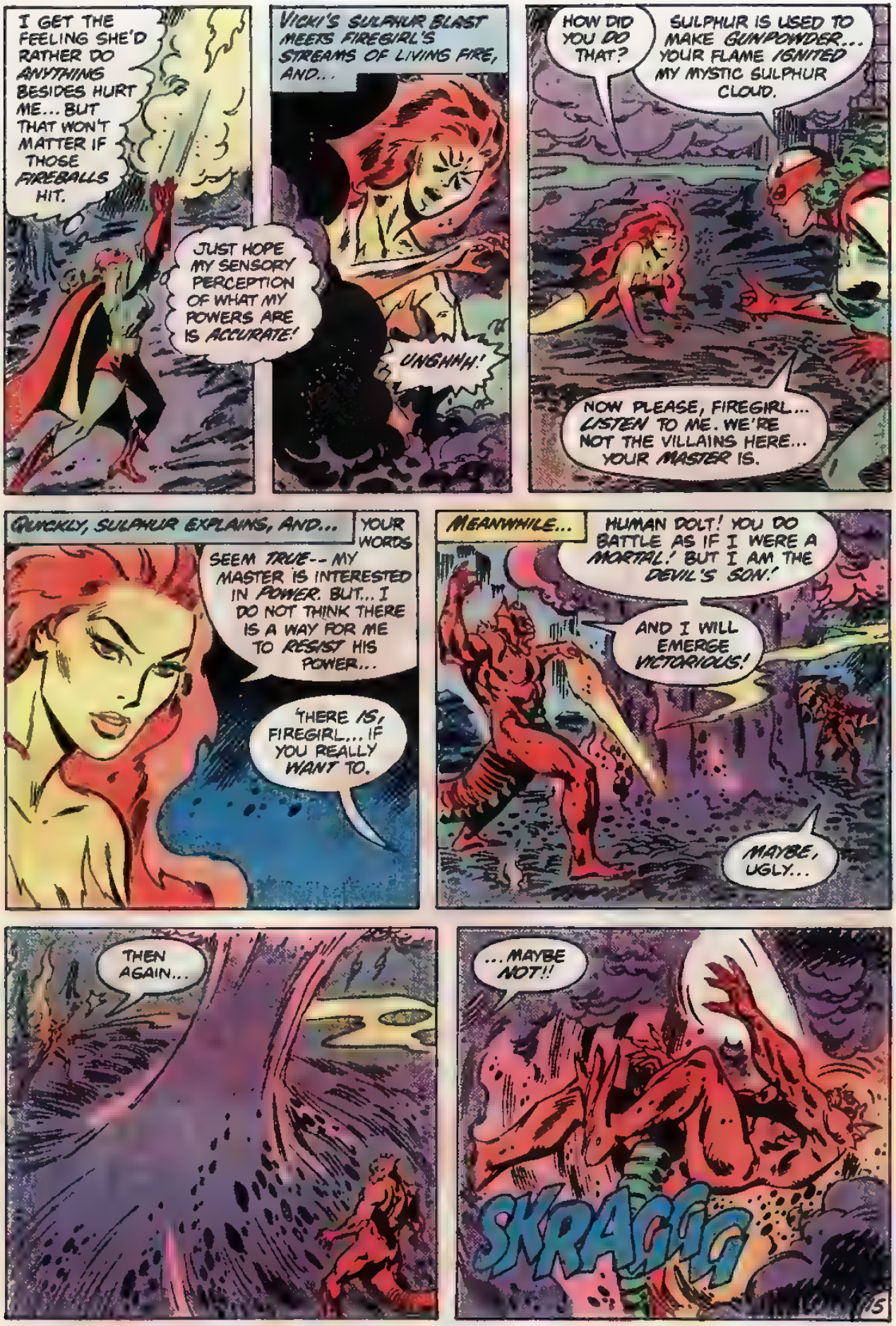

GREG! GOOD HEAVENS -- THEY'RE DISAPPEARING! WH-WHAT WAS THAT?
WE'LL WORRY ABOUT THAT ANOTHER TIME-- SIFT THROUGH THE WRECKAGE-- THERE COULD BE PEOPLE UNDER THERE!
AND CALL FOR AN AMBULANCE --FAST!
UNNHH...
WHAT? CHRIS? VICKI? MY GOD! HOW DID YOU GET HERE? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
MY BACK ACHES.. OTHERWISE I'M FINE!
WE HEARD A NOISE... CAME HERE TO INVESTIGATE.
AND THAT MONSTER MOVIE REJECT JUST CAVED EVERYTHING IN. WOW! I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT.
HOW ARE YOU? WE'LL GET YOU TO A HOSPITAL!
NO, WE'RE OKAY... REALLY. LOOK, I'LL GO OVER TO VICKI'S AND REST.
YOU'VE GOT OTHERS HERE WHO NEED YOU MORE.
OKAY, SON... BUT IF SOMETHING STARTS TO HURT-- GET TO THE HOSPITAL.
BELIEVE ME, WE WILL!
SOON, AT VICKI'S HOME...
Y'KNOW, I STILL DON'T BELIEVE THAT THING... IT'S AMAZING WE'RE STILL ALIVE!
IF YOU DON'T MIND, CHRIS, I'D RATHER NOT TALK RIGHT NOW.
HUNH?
C'MON, THERE'S NO REASON TO BE ANGRY. WE'RE FRIENDS.
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT, TOO. BUT WE'LL JUST HAVE TO SEE, EH?
10

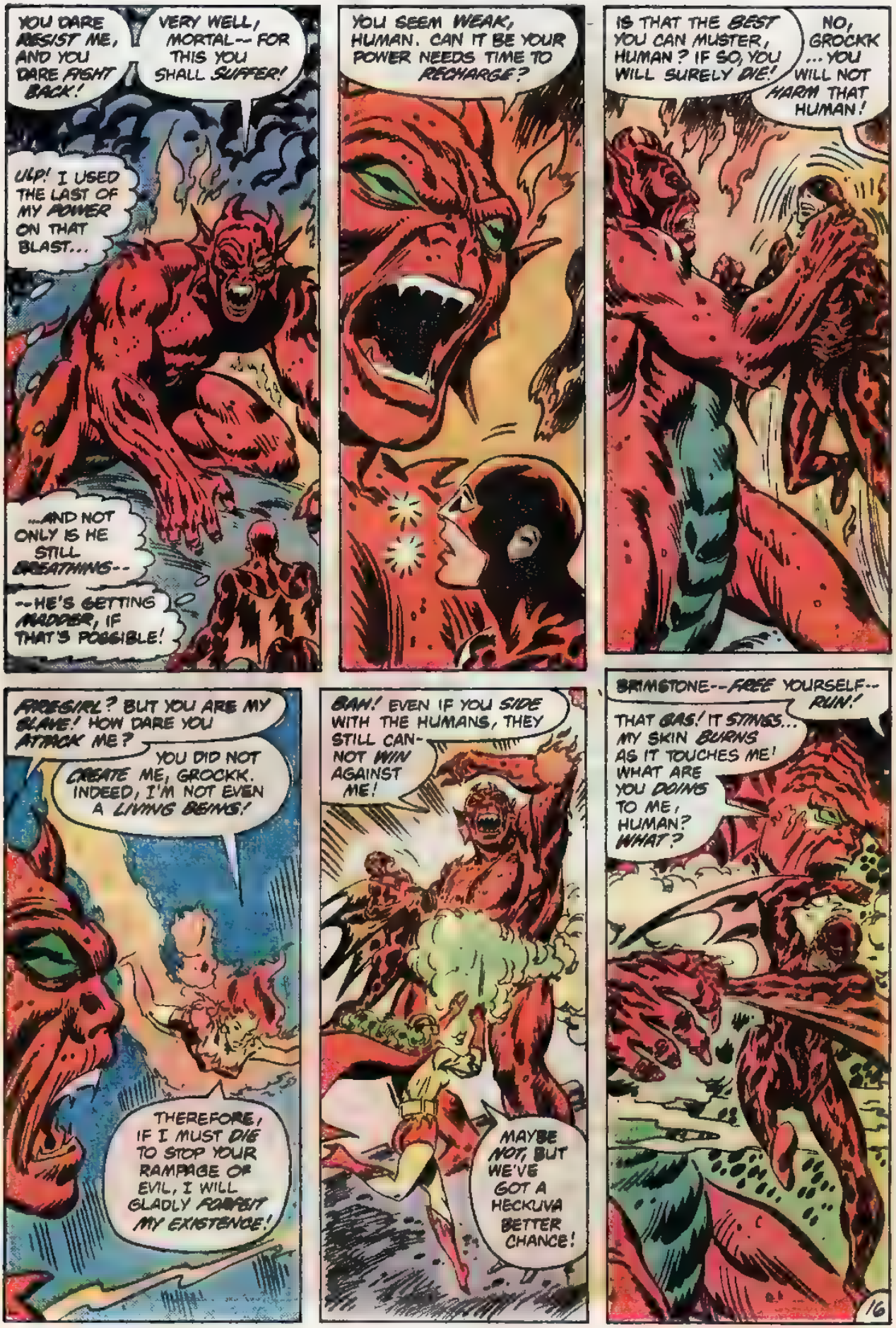

FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER, A SILENT CHRIS KING FINDS SOLACE WITH HIS FRIEND ROGER DUNBAR, AND A SLICE OF MEATBALL PIZZA...
CAN YOU BELIEVE IT, ROG? SHE PREFERS THAT DUMB JOCK TO ME.
PAL, YOU JES' GOTTA LEARN TO COOL IT.
SLICE
COOL IT? OUR RELATIONSHIP RIGHT NOW WOULD MAKE THE ICE AGE PALE BY COMPARISON.
MAN, JUST IGNORE IT... RIGHT NOW SHE FEELS SORRY FOR BRAD. SHE'LL GET OVER THAT WHEN HE STARTS ACTIN' LIKE A CRUMB AGAIN.
PIZZA PLUS
WELL, SPEAK OF THE DEVIL HIMSELF.
LISTEN TO WHAT I SAID, MAN... PLAY IT COOL.
I WANNA, ROG-- BUT JUST SEEING HIM MAKES MY BLOOD BOIL.
HEY, BRAD, THAT GANG TEACH YOU HOW TO STEAL GIRL FRIENDS, TOO?
LAY OFF, KING... I MEAN IT.
NO WAY, BIG-SHOT. ALL THESE MONTHS YOU PICKED ON ME... NOW IT'S MY TURN TO GET EVEN.
BRAD, IGNORE HIM. HE'S GOT THE BRAINS OF A FIRE HYDRANT.
SORRY, BABE, BUT THIS CREEP'S BEEN ASKIN' FOR IT--
--AN' NOW I'M FINALLY GONNA GIVE IT TO HIM!
WHAM!
11


YEAH, I REALLY SEE HOW MUCH YOU'VE CHANGED, MANN. YOU'RE STILL A CRO-MAGNON!
YOU FORCED HIM TO DO THAT, MR KING. YOU GOT WHAT YOU DESERVE!
I DON'T BELIEVE YOU, VICKI. HE...
SUDDENLY, FROM OUTSIDE, A LOUD RUMBLING THUNDER DROWNS OUT THE TEENAGER'S COMPLAINTS...
HUNH? WHAT'S THAT?
STAND ASIDE, HUMANS... MY MASTER MUST COME THROUGH!
IS MY THRONE READY, FIREGIRL?
IT IS, MASTER-- FOLLOW YOUR FAITHFUL SERVANT AND SEE!
THERE, SIRE-- A THRONE FIT FOR A KING!
NOT A KING, FIREGIRL-- AN EMPEROR OVER ALL HE SURVEYS!
AN EMPEROR WHO SHALL CREATE HIS VERY OWN CASTLE... FROM THE MOLTEN MAGMA BOILING DEEP WITHIN THE EARTH ITSELF.
12


MEANWHILE IN AN ALLEYWAY BEHIND THE PIZZA SHOP...
CAN'T LET HIM GET AWAY WITH THIS... WHO KNOWS HOW MANY PEOPLE HE'D KILL TO GET HIS WAY?
CHRIS KING BALLS THE MYSTIC LETTERS H-E-R-O...
AND, IN A BURST OF COSMIC FIREWORKS...
WOW! I COULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN A BETTER POWER IF I HAD PERSONALLY ORDERED IT.
THIS TIME I'VE BECOME-- BRIMSTONE!
BRIMSTONE WAS CREATED BY DOUGLAS HOLBEN, AGE 31. SPARTA, MI.*
BROCKK COMMANDS LAVA... BUT I'VE BEEN GIVEN THE POWER TO CONTROL IT AS WELL!
THINK WHAT YOU WISH, HUMAN... THAT POWER IS JUST ONE OF THE MANY THE DEVIL'S SON POSSESSES!
THOUGH EVEN IT IS MORE THAN ENOUGH TO DESTROY YOU!
A WALL OF BURNING LAVA!. IT WOULD TURN ME INTO INSTANT TOAST IF IT TOUCHED ME...
...BUT IT'S NOT EVEN GONNA GET CLOSE!
SEE WHAT I MEAN?
*DOUG GOT HIS SPECIAL DIAL 'N' RELEASE FORM FROM... THE BOOK STOP, 1160 CHICAGO DR. SW. WYOMING, MI. IF YOU'RE IN THE VICINITY, TELL 'EM YOU'RE A DIALER, TOO!


MEANWHILE...
CHRIS NEEDS ME... AND DESPITE EVERTHING HE'S DONE, I'VE GOT TO HELP HIM.
BRAD.. I CAN'T STAY HERE... I'VE GOT TO GO.
NO, VICKI-- IT'S NOT SAFE OUT THERE.
I'M SORRY, BRAD... THIS IS SOMETHING I'VE GOT TO DO!
I ONLY PRAY I'M IN TIME!
VICKI RACES BEHIND THE PIZZA SHOP, AND...
IT'S STILL A THRILL, BEING ABLE TO CHANGE LIKE THIS. I DON'T THINK I'LL EVER GET OVER IT.
I ALWAYS INSTINCTIVELY KNOW MY NAME AND POWERS. THIS TIME I'VE BECOME-- SULPHUR!
DOUG HOLBEN ALSO CREATED BRIMSTONE'S PARTNER, SULPHUR. GOOD GOING THERE, DOUG.
CAN'T FLY... AND MY FEET OOZE SULPHURIC ACID... BURNING MY FOOTSTEPS RIGHT INTO THE SIDEWALK!
STARTING TO WONDER WHAT I CAN ACCOMPLISH WITH THIS CRAZY POWER BEFORE--
FIREGIRL-- COMING TOWARD ME? DOES SHE WANT TO FIGHT OR--
ANOTHER COSTUMED FEMALE... JUST AS MY MASTER WARNED!
FIREGIRL, PLEASE LISTEN TO ME... YOU DON'T WANT TO HURT ME.
I HAVE NO REASON TO HARM ANY-ONE...
... BUT THIS IS WHAT MY MASTER COMMANDS!
14

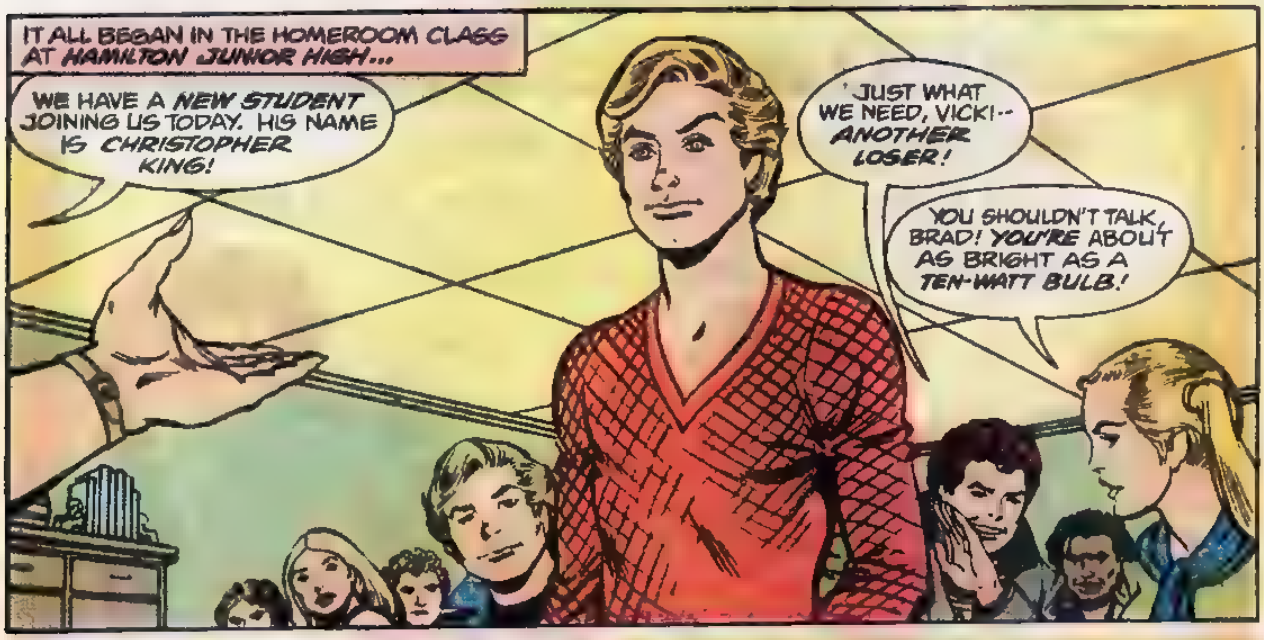

I GET THE FEELING SHE'D RATHER DO ANYTHING BESIDES HURT ME... BUT THAT WON'T MATTER IF THOSE FIREBALLS HIT.
JUST HOPE MY SENSORY PERCEPTION OF WHAT MY POWERS ARE IS ACCURATE!
VICKI'S SULPHUR BLAST MEETS FIREGIRL'S STREAMS OF LIVING FIRE, AND..
UNGHHH!
HOW DID YOU DO THAT?
SULPHUR IS USED TO MAKE GUNPOWDER... YOUR FLAME IGNITED MY MYSTIC SULPHUR CLOUD.
NOW PLEASE, FIREGIRL... LISTEN TO ME. WE'RE NOT THE VILLAINS HERE... YOUR MASTER IS.
QUICKLY, SULPHUR EXPLAINS, AND...
YOUR WORDS SEEM TRUE-- MY MASTER IS INTERESTED IN POWER. BUT... I DO NOT THINK THERE IS A WAY FOR ME TO RESIST HIS POWER...
THERE IS, FIREGIRL... IF YOU REALLY WANT TO.
MEANWHILE...
HUMAN DOLT! YOU DO BATTLE AS IF I WERE A MORTAL! BUT I AM THE DEVIL'S SON!
AND I WILL EMERGE VICTORIOUS!
MAYBE, UGLY...
THEN AGAIN...
...MAYBE NOT!!
SKRAGG
15

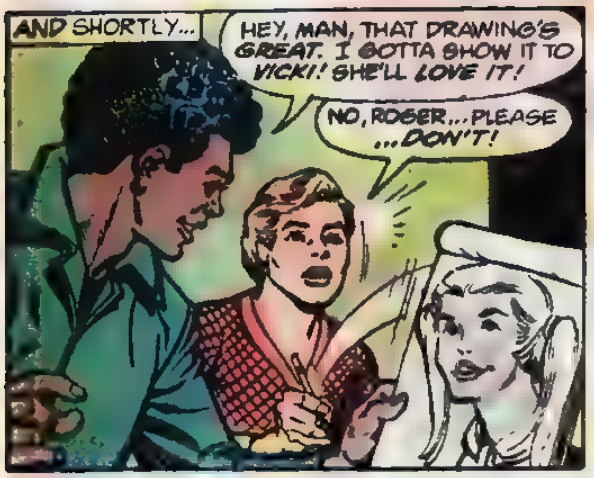

YOU DARE RESIST ME, AND YOU DARE FIGHT BACK!
VERY WELL, MORTAL-- FOR THIS YOU SHALL SUFFER!
ULP! I USED THE LAST OF MY POWER ON THAT BLAST...
--AND NOT ONLY IS HE STILL BREATHING--
--HE'S GETTING MADDER, IF THAT'S POSSIBLE!
YOU SEEM WEAK, HUMAN. CAN IT BE YOUR POWER NEEDS TIME TO RECHARGE?
IS THAT THE BEST YOU CAN MUSTER, HUMAN? IF SO, YOU WILL SURELY DIE!
NO, GROCKK ...YOU WILL NOT HARM THAT HUMAN!
FIRESIRL? BUT YOU ARE MY SLAVE! HOW DARE YOU ATTACK ME?
YOU DID NOT CREATE ME, GROCKK. INDEED, I'M NOT EVEN A LIVING BEING!
THEREFORE, IF I MUST DIE TO STOP YOUR RAMPAGE OF EVIL, I WILL GLADLY FORFEIT MY EXISTENCE!
BAH! EVEN IF YOU SIDE WITH THE HUMANS, THEY STILL CANNOT WIN AGAINST ME!
MAYBE NOT, BUT WE'VE GOT A HECKUVA BETTER CHANCE!
BRIMSTONE--FREE YOURSELF-- RUN!
THAT GAS! IT STINGS... MY SKIN BURNS AS IT TOUCHES ME! WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO ME, HUMAN? WHAT?
16

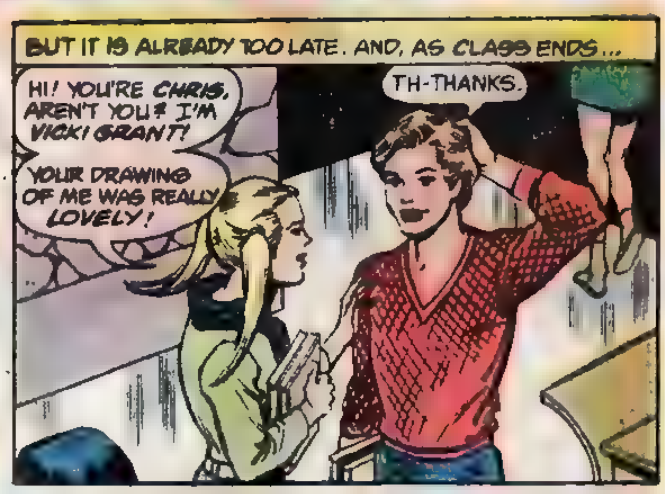
SULPHURIC ACID BURNED YOU... AND TOGETHER WITH FIREGIRL, WE CAUSED THAT EXPLOSION!
BAWHAMMM!
I'M BURNING UP... IN PAIN! I CANNOT STAND IT ANY LONGER!
HE'S FALLING BACK INTO THE HELL-PIT... HE WILL RETURN TO HIS HOME NOW...
AND I WILL MAKE CERTAIN HE DOES NOT RETURN.
THANK YOU, HUMANS! I, WHO AM AN ARTIFICIAL CREATION, HAVE NOW-- BECAUSE OF YOU--BEEN GIVEN A REASON TO LIVE!
THEY'RE DOWN THERE...! NOW TO USE WHAT POWER I'VE GOT LEFT... AND SEAL UP THAT PIT-- FOREVER!
GROCKK WON'T RETURN AGAIN!
WELL, THAT'S OVER WITH... NOW CAN WE TALK...?
THERE'S NOTHING TO TALK ABOUT, CHRIS. BESIDES...
I WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF A DATE WITH BRAD WHEN THIS BEGAN.
AND IT'S A DATE I INTEND TO FINISH.
TIKE
17

HOW DID *VICKI GRANT* AND *CHRISTOPHER KING* GET THEIR *POWER-DIALS?* FIND OUT IN...

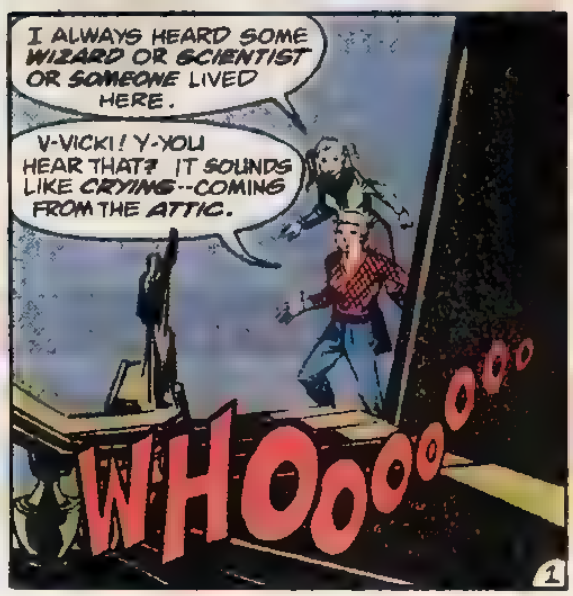
HERE COME THE HEROES!

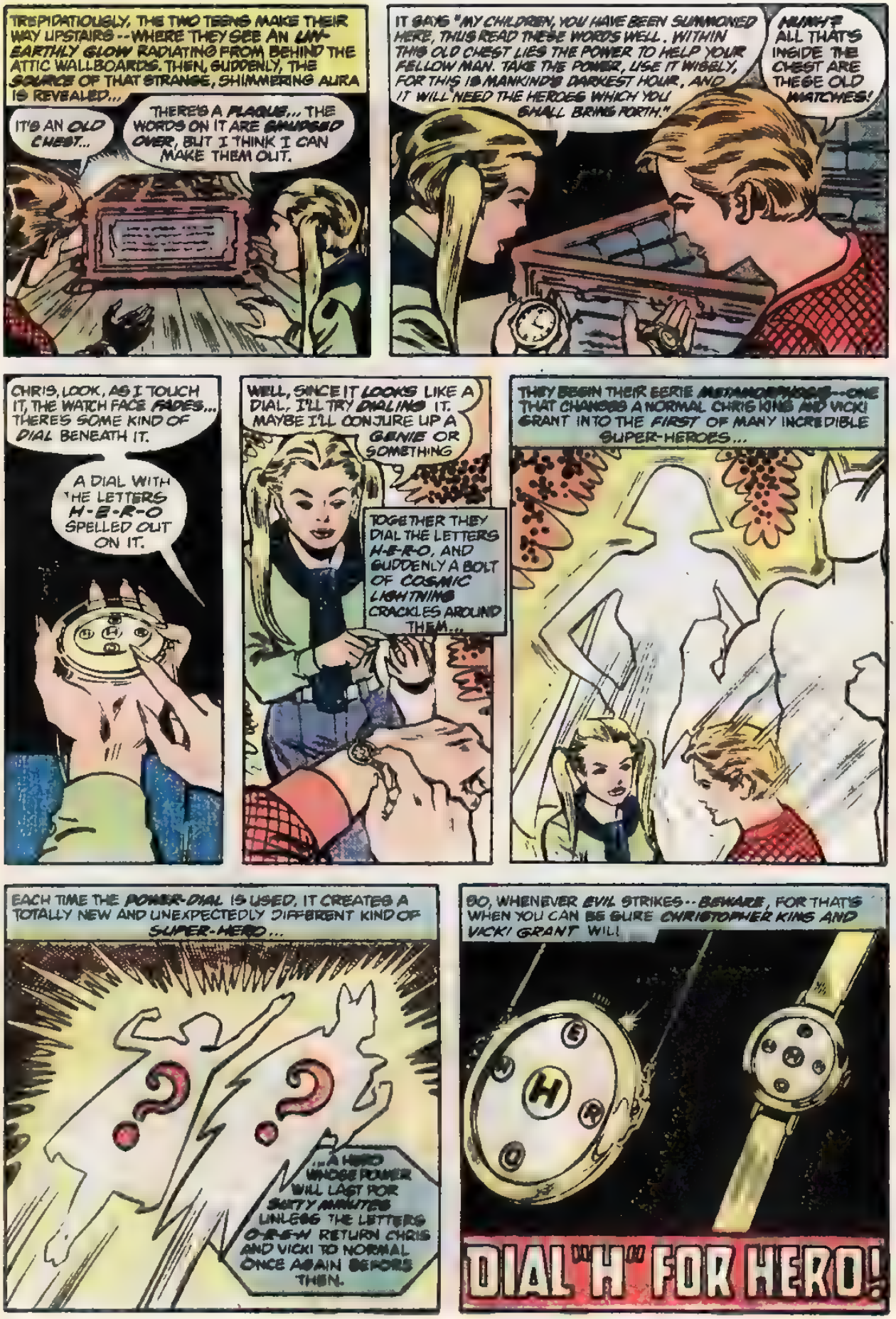

IT ALL BEGAN IN THE HOMEROOM CLASS AT *HAMILTON JUNIOR HIGH*...
WE HAVE A *NEW STUDENT* JOINING US TODAY. HIS NAME IS *CHRISTOPHER KING!*
JUST WHAT WE NEED, VICK!-- *ANOTHER LOSER!*
YOU SHOULDN'T TALK, BRAD! *YOU'RE* ABOUT AS BRIGHT AS A *TEN-WATT BULB!*



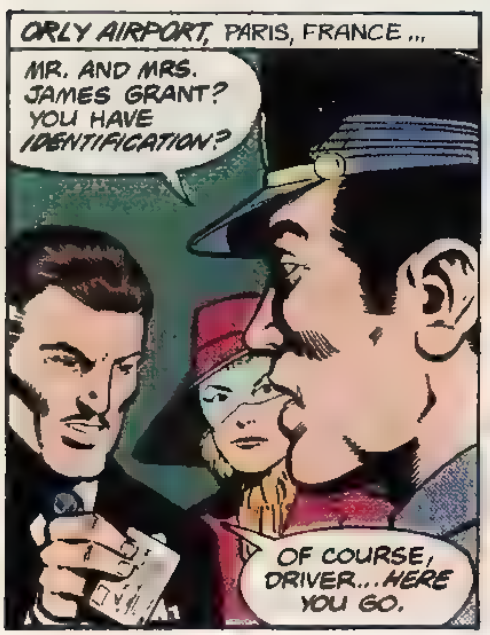

BUT IT IS ALREADY TOO LATE. AND, AS CLASS ENDS...
HI! YOU'RE *CHRIS,* AREN'T YOU? I'M *VICKI GRANT!*
TH-THANKS.
YOUR DRAWING OF ME WAS REALLY *LOVELY!*

YOU'RE *NEW* IN FAIRFAX, AREN'T YOU?
YEAH, WE JUST MOVED INTO THAT BIG HOUSE -- 231 JEWEL AVENUE.
THAT PLACE? GOOD GRIEF! IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE *HAUNTED!*

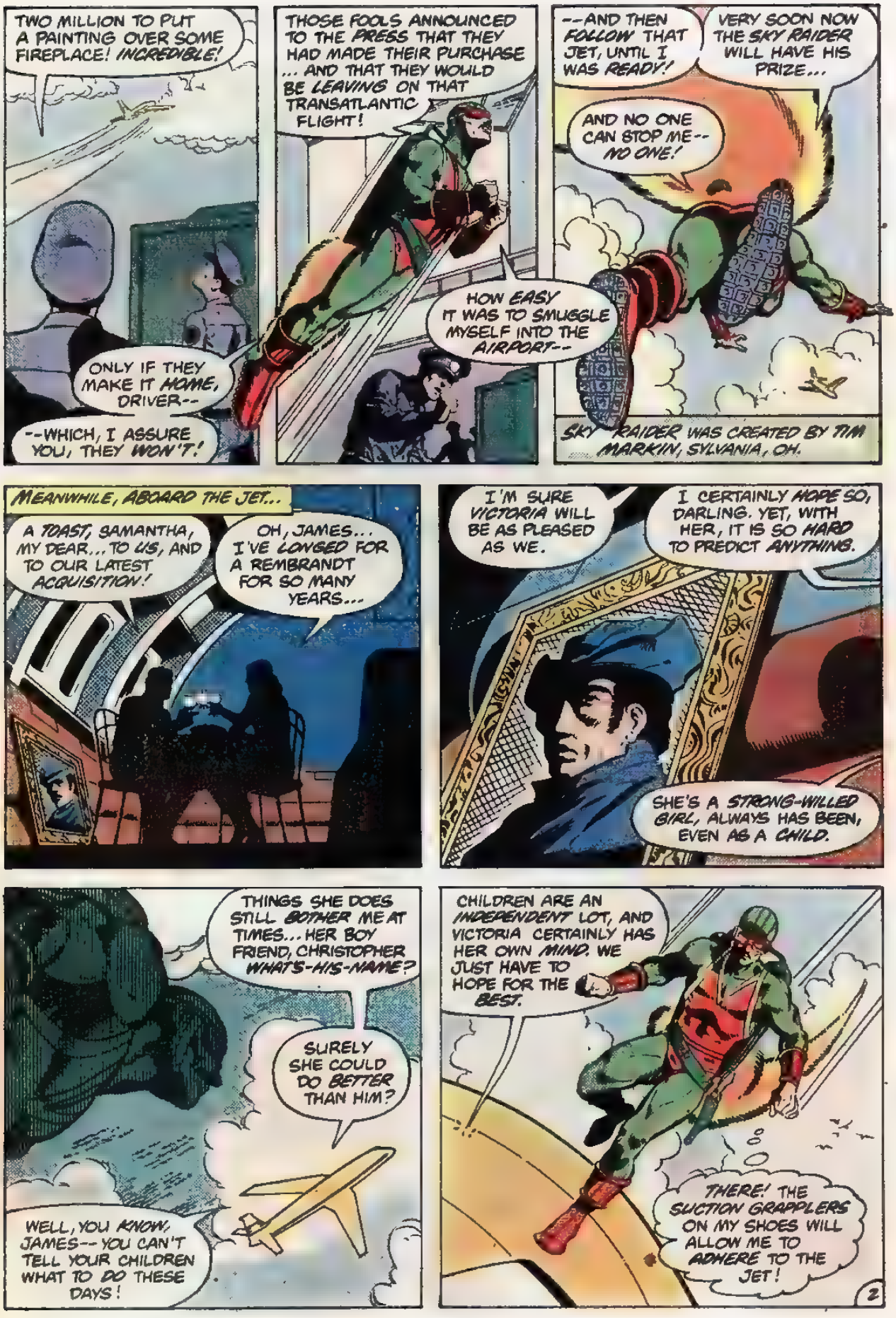

I ALWAYS HEARD SOME *WIZARD* OR *SCIENTIST* OR *SOMEONE* LIVED HERE.
V-VICKI! Y-YOU HEAR THAT? IT SOUNDS LIKE *CRYING*--COMING FROM THE *ATTIC.*
WHOOOOOOO

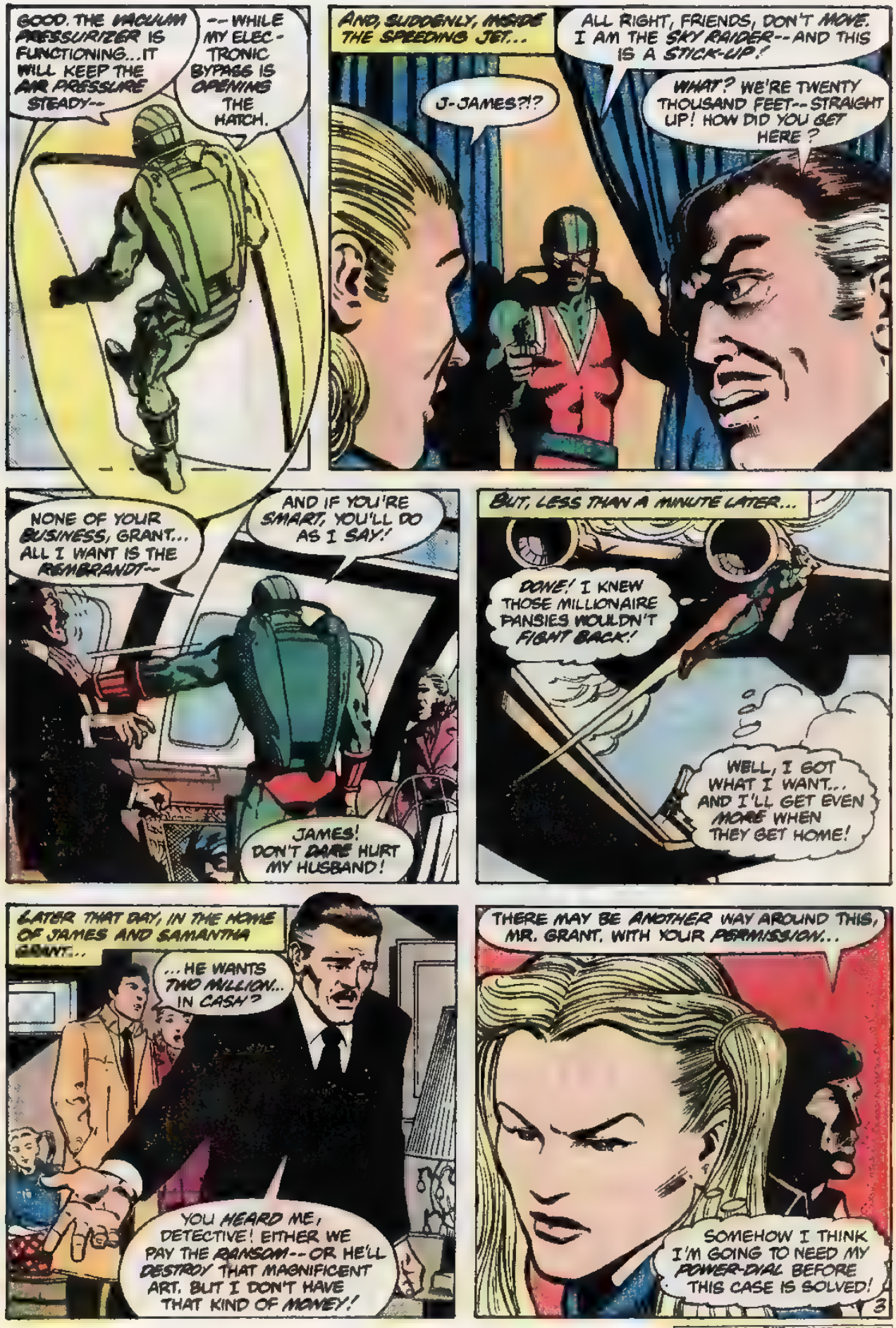

TREPIDATIOUSLY, THE TWO TEENS MAKE THEIR WAY UPSTAIRS--WHERE THEY SEE AN UNEARTHLY GLOW RADIATING FROM BEHIND THE ATTIC WALLBOARDS. THEN, SUDDENLY, THE SOURCE OF THAT STRANGE, SHIMMERING AURA IS REVEALED...
IT'S AN OLD CHEST...
THERE'S A PLAQUE... THE WORDS ON IT ARE SMUDGED OVER, BUT I THINK I CAN MAKE THEM OUT.
IT SAYS "MY CHILDREN, YOU HAVE BEEN SUMMONED HERE, THUS READ THESE WORDS WELL. WITHIN THIS OLD CHEST LIES THE POWER TO HELP YOUR FELLOW MAN. TAKE THE POWER, USE IT WISELY, FOR THIS IS MANKIND'S DARKEST HOUR, AND IT WILL NEED THE HEROES WHICH YOU SHALL BRING FORTH."
HUH?? ALL THAT'S INSIDE THE CHEST ARE THESE OLD WATCHES!
CHRIS, LOOK, AS I TOUCH IT, THE WATCH FACE FADES... THERE'S SOME KIND OF DIAL BENEATH IT.
A DIAL WITH THE LETTERS H-E-R-O SPELLED OUT ON IT.
WELL, SINCE IT LOOKS LIKE A DIAL, I'LL TRY DIALING IT. MAYBE I'LL CONJURE UP A GENIE OR SOMETHING
TOGETHER THEY DIAL THE LETTERS H-E-R-O, AND SUDDENLY A BOLT OF COSMIC LIGHTNING CRACKLES AROUND THEM...
THEY BEGIN THEIR EERIE METAMORPHOSIS--ONE THAT CHANGES A NORMAL CHRIS KING AND VICKI GRANT INTO THE FIRST OF MANY INCREDIBLE SUPER-HEROES...
EACH TIME THE POWER-DIAL IS USED, IT CREATES A TOTALLY NEW AND UNEXPECTEDLY DIFFERENT KIND OF SUPER-HERO...
...A HERO WHOSE POWER WILL LAST FOR SIXTY MINUTES UNLESS THE LETTERS O-R-E-H RETURN CHRIS AND VICKI TO NORMAL ONCE AGAIN BEFORE THEN.
SO, WHENEVER EVIL STRIKES--BEWARE, FOR THAT'S WHEN YOU CAN BE SURE CHRISTOPHER KING AND VICKI GRANT WILL!
DIAL "H" FOR HERO!

DIAL "H" FOR HERO
A PRICELESS REMBRANDT IS STOLEN, NOT FROM A MUSEUM GALLERY OR SOME MILLIONAIRE'S MANSION, BUT FROM A JET PLANE IN MID-FLIGHT! CAN OUR DIALING DAMSEL POSSIBLY SOLVE...
The PLIGHT OF THE FLIGHT PIRATE
Merrill
AIR LINES
JF7499


ORLY AIRPORT, PARIS, FRANCE...
MR. AND MRS. JAMES GRANT? YOU HAVE IDENTIFICATION?
OF COURSE, DRIVER...HERE YOU GO.

SIR, YOU ARE NOW OFFICIALLY TAKING CUSTODY OF THIS REMBRANDT. AS OF THIS MOMENT, THE RESPONSIBILITY IS YOURS!
AT LAST! IT COST TWO MILLION DOLLARS, BUT IT'S WORTH EVERY PENNY!


TWO MILLION TO PUT A PAINTING OVER SOME FIREPLACE! INCREDIBLE!
ONLY IF THEY MAKE IT HOME, DRIVER--
--WHICH, I ASSURE YOU, THEY WON'T!
THOSE FOOLS ANNOUNCED TO THE PRESS THAT THEY HAD MADE THEIR PURCHASE ... AND THAT THEY WOULD BE LEAVING ON THAT TRANSATLANTIC FLIGHT!
HOW EASY IT WAS TO SMUGGLE MYSELF INTO THE AIRPORT--
--AND THEN FOLLOW THAT JET, UNTIL I WAS READY!
VERY SOON NOW THE SKY RAIDER WILL HAVE HIS PRIZE...
AND NO ONE CAN STOP ME-- NO ONE!
SKY RAIDER WAS CREATED BY TIM MARKIN, SYLVANIA, OH.
MEANWHILE, ABOARD THE JET..
A TOAST, SAMANTHA, MY DEAR... TO US, AND TO OUR LATEST ACQUISITION!
OH, JAMES... I'VE LONGED FOR A REMBRANDT FOR SO MANY YEARS...
I'M SURE VICTORIA WILL BE AS PLEASED AS WE.
I CERTAINLY HOPE SO, DARLING. YET, WITH HER, IT IS SO HARD TO PREDICT ANYTHING.
SHE'S A STRONG-WILLED GIRL, ALWAYS HAS BEEN, EVEN AS A CHILD.
THINGS SHE DOES STILL BOTHER ME AT TIMES... HER BOY FRIEND, CHRISTOPHER WHAT'S-HIS-NAME?
SURELY SHE COULD DO BETTER THAN HIM?
WELL, YOU KNOW, JAMES-- YOU CAN'T TELL YOUR CHILDREN WHAT TO DO THESE DAYS!
CHILDREN ARE AN INDEPENDENT LOT, AND VICTORIA CERTAINLY HAS HER OWN MIND. WE JUST HAVE TO HOPE FOR THE BEST.
THERE! THE SUCTION GRAPPLERS ON MY SHOES WILL ALLOW ME TO ADHERE TO THE JET!
2


GOOD. THE VACUUM PRESSURIZER IS FUNCTIONING...IT WILL KEEP THE AIR PRESSURE STEADY--
--WHILE MY ELECTRONIC BYPASS IS OPENING THE HATCH.
AND, SUDDENLY, INSIDE THE SPEEDING JET...
ALL RIGHT, FRIENDS, DON'T MOVE. I AM THE SKY RAIDER--AND THIS IS A STICK-UP!
J-JAMES?!?
WHAT? WE'RE TWENTY THOUSAND FEET--STRAIGHT UP! HOW DID YOU GET HERE?
NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS, GRANT... ALL I WANT IS THE REMBRANDT--
AND IF YOU'RE SMART, YOU'LL DO AS I SAY!
JAMES! DON'T DARE HURT MY HUSBAND!
BUT, LESS THAN A MINUTE LATER...
DONE! I KNEW THOSE MILLIONAIRE PANSIES WOULDN'T FIGHT BACK!
WELL, I GOT WHAT I WANT... AND I'LL GET EVEN MORE WHEN THEY GET HOME!
LATER THAT DAY, IN THE HOME OF JAMES AND SAMANTHA GRANT...
...HE WANTS TWO MILLION... IN CASH?
YOU HEARD ME, DETECTIVE! EITHER WE PAY THE RANSOM--OR HE'LL DESTROY THAT MAGNIFICENT ART. BUT I DON'T HAVE THAT KIND OF MONEY!
THERE MAY BE ANOTHER WAY AROUND THIS, MR. GRANT, WITH YOUR PERMISSION...
SOMEHOW I THINK I'M GOING TO NEED MY POWER-DIAL BEFORE THIS CASE IS SOLVED!
3

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

AND THUS, THE FOLLOWING MORNING...
Daily Fairfax
THIEF STEALS PHONY ART
Escapes with inexpensive duplicate
DUPLICATE OF MASTERPIECE STOLEN
New England Times
STOLEN PAINTING--A PHONY!!
WHAT? I'VE BEEN TRICKED?
THOSE CRETINS-- NO WONDER THEY DIDN'T PROTEST!
THEY'LL PAY FOR THIS INSULT! I SWEAR--THEY WILL PAY!
NIGHT, AND THE SKY RAIDER ONCE MORE TAKES TO THE SKIES...
THERE'S THEIR HOUSE... AND INSIDE, THE REAL REMBRANDT!
THIS TIME WHEN THEY TRY TO BUY BACK THE REAL ONE--IT WILL COST THEM FIVE MILLION-- IN GOLD.!!
SOFTLY, HE ALIGHTS ON THE ROOF, AND THROUGH THE SKYLIGHT SEES...
THE REMBRANDT... JUST WAITING TO BE PLUCKED.
CRA
WELL, IT'S MINE NOW...
...AND IT WILL REMAIN MINE UNTIL THE RANSOM IS PAID.
HALT! STAND WHERE YOU ARE, RAIDER!
WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED, RAIDER! DROP THE PAINTING.
NO WAY, COP! YOU SHOOT, YOU'LL DESTROY THIS PAINTING... AND I KNOW YOU'RE NOT GONNA DO THAT!
4

HA HA HA HA HA
DON'T SHOOT, MEN-- HE'S RIGHT, BLAST HIM!
HE GOT AWAY... JUST AS YOU PLANNED.
YEAH... THE RADIO TRANSMITTER WE HID INSIDE THAT FRAME SHOULD LEAD US RIGHT TO HIM.
FORTUNATELY YOU HAD THAT SLIDE... IN THE DIM LIGHT HE NEVER NOTICED THE PICTURE WAS A LITHOGRAPHIC BLOW-UP!
BUT, AS THE RAIDER JETS THROUGH THE DARKENED SKIES OVER FAIRFAX...
WHERE HE GOES, I FOLLOW. I DON'T WANT HIM RUNNING WHEN HE FINDS OUT THAT PICTURE IS A PHONY!
HE COULD BE IN ANOTHER HIDEOUT BEFORE THE POLICE EVER SHOW.
CLEVER! THAT LIGHTHOUSE IS IMPOSSIBLE TO GET TO... UNLESS YOU FLY.
AND IF SPARROW HAWK CAN DO ANYTHING-- IT'S FLY!
SPARROW HAWK WAS CREATED BY GEORGE LOMSLEY, AGE 17, TORONTO, CANADA.
BUT, INSIDE THE DESERTED LIGHTHOUSE...
THOSE FOOLS! THEY TRIED TO TRICK ME AGAIN... THIS IS A LITHOGRAPH! I HAD THE REAL PAINTING ALL ALONG.
BUT WHY DID THEY TRY TO TRICK ME, UNLESS...
A TRANSMITTER... THEY'RE FOLLOWING ME HERE.
WELL, LET THEM.
BY THE TIME THEY ARRIVE, I'LL BE GONE... WITH THE ORIGINAL!
Y'KNOW, THAT'S WHAT THEY ALL SAY, HANDSOME...
6

AND SO FAR NOT ONE OF YOU CROOKED CREEPS HAS EVER GOTTEN AWAY!
WHO? WHO ARE YOU?
JUST CALL ME SPARROW HAWK!
BY THE WAY, THAT'S A HUNTER BIRD..
-- AND YOU'RE NOW MY PREY!
SHE'S GOT THE PAINTINGS!
BUT NOT FOR LONG!
LADY, YOU'VE GOT A SCREW LOOSE IF YOU THINK YOU CAN OUTFLY THE SKY RAIDER!
UNGHH!
WHOOM
NO! I DROPPED THE PAINTING!
CLUMSY DOLT! IF THAT HITS THE WATER-- IT'LL BE RUINED! I'LL NEVER COLLECT MY MILLIONS THEN.
THEY STRAIN, EACH TRYING TO OUTRACE THE OTHER...
SPARROW HAWK GRITS HER TEETH IN DESPERATION...
SKY RAIDER PUSHES HIS JETS TO THEIR LIMIT...

...AND HE REACHES THE FALLING PAINTING... WITH JUST INCHES TO SPARE.
I'VE GOT IT! IT'S MINE! MINE!
BUT...
YOU'VE GOT THE PAINTING, RAIDER--BUT I'VE GOT YOUR JETS!
NO! WITHOUT THEM, I CAN'T FLY!
YOU LEARN FAST, DON'T YOU?
HE LET GO OF THE PAINTING... BUT THIS TIME I'VE GOT IT!
... SAFE AND SOUND!
I SEE YOUR PAL LIKES THE RIVER...
JUST AS WELL--SINCE HE'S GOING TO BE SENT UP THE RIVER FOR AT LEAST TEN YEARS!
THANKS... WHOEVER YOU ARE!
HEY, IT WAS NO PROBLEM... JUST TAKE CARE OF THAT, WILLYA?
THEY HAVE THE REMBRANDT, AND I'VE COME TO A DECISION.
I STOPPED THE SKY RAIDER MYSELF--WITHOUT CHRIS--AND, JUDGING FROM THE WAY HE'S BEEN ACTING LATELY...
...I THINK I'LL BE WORKING SOLO FROM NOW ON. AS A SUPER-TEAM, VICKI GRANT AND CHRIS KING ARE FINISHED!
WHAT'S THIS? OUR DIALING DUO BREAKING UP? BE BACK NEXT ISSUE AND SEE FOR YOURSELF!